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# Message Text

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47
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-15 NSC-05 AGR-10 PM-03 /111 W
---------- 115738
R 191723Z DEC 74
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8023
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 180
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 10050

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, EEC,AS
SUBJECT: WHITLAM SPEECH AND PRESS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS

1. AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER GOUGH WHITLAM'S ONLY PUBLIC APPEARANCE DURING HIS STAY IN BRUSSELS, DEC. 15-19, TOOK THE FORM OF A PREPARED SPEECH FOLLOWED BY A PRESS CONFERENCE ON DEC. 18.

2. THE MOST NESWORTHY STATEMENTS MADE BY WHITLAM WERE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS. HE SAID THAT IT IS TIME THAT BRITAIN STOP ITS SHILLY-SHALLYING ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC. HE SAID IT WOULD NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS OF AUSTRALIA, THE UK, OR THE WORLD IF THE UK WERE TO LEAVE THE COMMUNITY. HE POINTED OUT THAT HIS VISITING BRUSSELS BEFORE LONDON REFLECTED AUSTRALIAN PRIORITIES.

3. THE BULK OF WHITLAM'S PREPARED STATEMENT IS DEVOTED TO DEVELOPING TWO THEMES: THE THE EURO-PEAN COMMUNITY IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO AUSTRALIA; SECONDLY, THAT AUSTRALIA SEES ITSELF AS AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
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4. BOTH IN HIS SPEECH AND IN HIS RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS, HE STRESSED TWO SUBJECTS: THE EC BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS AND THE EC'S DESIRE TO PURCHASE URANIUM FROM AUSTRALIA. ON BEEF HE STATED THAT HE NOW HAD AN IDEA OF WHEN AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIBERALIZE ITS BEEF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. AS FOR URANIUM, HE NOTED THAT AUSTRALIA WANTED DEPENDABLE MARKETS TO WHICH IT COULD EXPORT URANIUM IN THE HIGHEST PROCESSED FORM. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WAS MAKING A LINK BETWEEN BEEF AND URANIUM, HE RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT, BUT SAID THAT IN MAKING INVESTMENTS IN URANIUM PRODUCTION AUSTRALIA WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER THE DEPENDABILITY OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

5. WHITLAM SAID WITH REGARD TO SUGAR THAT AUSTRALIA WAS INTERESTED IN SELLING ON THE BASIS OF LONG-TERM CONTRACTS -- OF FIVE YEARS OR MORE. (HE SAID THAT AUSTRALIA WAS SELLING TO CHINA ON THE BASIS OF A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT AND TO SOME OTHER COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF FIVE YEAR CONTRACTS.)

6. THE TEXT OF WHITLAM'S STATEMENT IS BEING POUCHED.
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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, MEMBERSHIP, PRESS CONFERENCES
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 19 DEC 1974
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** n/a
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** n/a
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:**
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1974ECBRU10050
**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** n/a
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
**Film Number:** D740369-0967
**From:** EC BRUSSELS
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Image Path:**
**ISecure:** 1
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741223/aaaaatli.tel
**Line Count:** 85
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
**Office:** ACTION EUR
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Page Count:** 2
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Previous Classification:** n/a
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Reference:** n/a
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH
**Review Comment:** n/a
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 26 SEP 2002
**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 SEP 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**
**Review Referrals:** n/a
**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** WHITLAM SPEECH AND PRESS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS
**TAGS:** EGEN, ETRD, AS, EEC
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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